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imagery analysis report

Submarine Construction at Fuling Shipyard, China (S)

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SUBMARINE CONSTRUCTION AT FULING SHIPYARD, CHINA (S)

1. (S/D) Analysis of imagery from June 1979 through May 1980 indicated that two submarines were under construction at Fuling Shipyard China. Supporting evidence included the presence of an outfitting barge at the shipyard; identification of two sets of assembly support frames near the construction hall; and a decrease in the number of outer-hull components seen in the open storage area. Fuling Shipyard (Figure 1) is on the Yangtze River, approximately 2,300 kilometers (800 nautical miles) southwest of Shanghai, and was probably complete by December 1977. 25X1

2. (S/D) an outfitting barge was positioned downstream from the marine railway (Figures 2 and 3). This barge is similar to the barge used at Wuhan Shipyard Wujiang to outfit ROMEO and MING submarines (Figure 4). The presence of the barge at Fuling suggests that at least one submarine may be nearly complete and may be launched within the next few months. 25X1 25X1 25X1

3. (S/D) Fifty assembly support frames were identified at the shipyard The support frames were observed in two groups on the east side of the construction hall (Figure 5). Submarine construction at Fuling probably began when the frames were moved into the hall 25X1 25X1

4. (S/D) On the basis of Chinese construction techniques using assembly support frames, an estimated 20 to 26 frames would be used in the construction of a ROMEO. Thus, the presence of 50 such frames suggests two submarines are being built at the shipyard.

5. (S/D) Outer-hull components for ROMEO submarines were observed at Fuling as early By June 1979, outer-hull components for two submarines were in the open storage area (Figure 6). The two sets of components remained there through January 1980, however, components for only one submarine were visible in the area, indicating that the first ROMEO was in the late stage of construction (Figure 7). The second ROMEO was probably in the late stage of construction by mid-May, at least seven pieces of the remaining hull plates were removed from the open storage area (Figure 8). 25X1 25X1 25X1 25X1

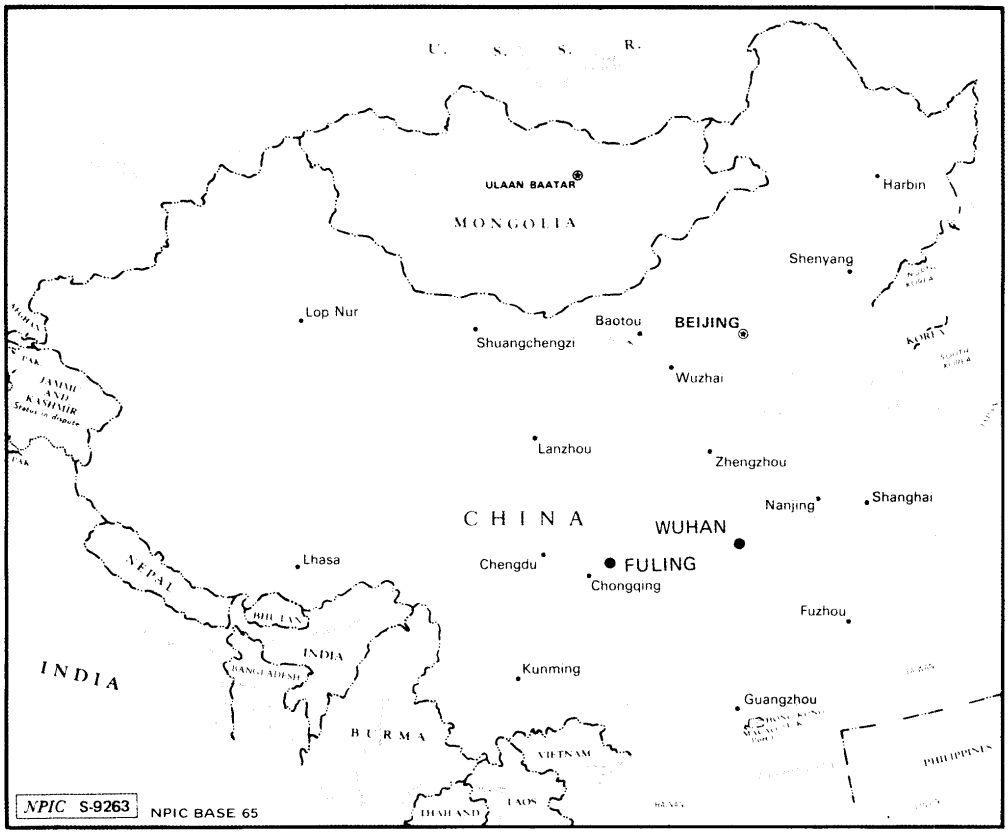

FIGURE 1. LOCATION OF FULING SHIPYARD, CHINA

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REFERENCES

RELATED DOCUMENTS

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NISC. [redacted] RNG-23/0008/74, *Submarine Components, Shanghai Naval Base and Shipyard Kiangnan Dock Company (S),* Jun 74 (TOP SECRET CODEWORD) 25X1

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